

This Qing courtyard was the setting for Zhang Yimou's thrashing of Quentin Tarantino. **Page 16**



On offer is a visual feast that melds modern dance with ancient Australian culture. **Page 12**



"I have a kind of *baodu* complex." **Page 9**



BEIJING TODAY

FRIDAY OCTOBER 25, 2002

NO. 76

CN11-0120

HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM

CPC Central Committee Names City Leaders

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) named the municipal committee leaders of Beijing, the national capital, Shanghai, China's largest city, and Chongqing, ac-

cording to the official Xinhua News Agency earlier this week.

Liu Qi succeeds Jia Qinglin as secretary of the municipal CPC committee of Beijing, while Chen Liangyu takes over

the post of secretary of Shanghai's municipal CPC committee from Huang Ju.

Jia and Huang, both members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, have

been transferred to posts in central authorities. He Guoqiang is succeeded by Huang Zhendong as secretary of Chongqing's municipal CPC committee. He has been assigned to another post.

City Scales Back Efforts to Home In on Pigeons

Fan groups successfully lobby for more room to raise "dirty" birds

By Xiao Rong

Feelings are mixed around the city about a new regulation passed this month that has forced some raisers of pigeons to give up their coops in an effort to improve the image and sanitation of the capital.

Nearly 120 pigeon pens built outside people's windows and balconies or on building roofs have been dismantled and 407 have been rebuilt in Haidian district alone since the revised Regulation on City Appearance and Environmental Hygiene went into effect on October 1.

However, that number is far less than expected from the draft version of the regulation, which some saw as too extreme.

"The draft banned pigeon coops from the roofs, balconies and windows of residences, which meant an almost complete clampdown on pigeon raising in Beijing," said Lin Hongming, secretary general of the Beijing Homing Pigeon Association.

His group and other pigeon enthusiasts took action and succeeded in persuading the local government to scale back its anti-pigeon efforts and allow people to continue to raise birds on their balconies.

First reaction of pigeon fans

Just one of the over 60 clauses in the revised regulation, the pigeon topic has aroused heated debate since the draft of the regulation was first released on July 22 for public feedback.

Lin told *Beijing Today* that many members of the association called in to express dissatisfaction and confusion when the draft was first announced, complaining that the limited living space in urban Beijing was the real cause of any problems.

"China is a developing country and most of our members cannot afford to live in townhouses with enough room for coops," said Zhou Zuqi, director of the association and avid pigeon fan.

The association, which boasts 23,000 members, managed to organize a meeting on July 26 to voice their opinions on the pigeon problem. Participants suggested the Beijing Municipal People's Congress protect the healthy development of pigeon raising instead of simply slapping a ban on the sport.

"About 18,000 of our members live in high-rise buildings and have built pigeon coops on roofs or outside their balconies and windows, not to mention other pigeon raisers who are not association members. Their basic right to raise pigeons should be protected as long as the birds don't disturb their neighborhoods," Lin said.

The meeting ultimately resulted in the revision of the draft's



A pigeon raiser helps a Haidian district administrator dismantle his roof-top coop.

Photo by Dai Jun

Birds-Eye View of an Ancient Hobby

Pigeon raising has been a folk hobby in Beijing for centuries. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, pigeon raising continued as a personal hobby among many people, but it was not until the Beijing Homing Pigeon Association was established in 1982 that the sport of pigeon raising and racing really took wing in the capital.

Today, the association boasts around 23,000 members, while the membership of the China Homing Pigeon Association has reached over 300,000 strong.

Pigeon racing was designated by the State Sports Bureau as one of the 97 formal sports events of China and the China Homing Pigeon Association was accepted as a formal member of the International Pigeon Association in 1997, giving it the honor of being the only civilian sports association in China to gain worldwide recognition.

pigeon clause, which changed to allow pigeon coops to be built on balconies, but insisted that any coops that could seriously disturb neighbors or taint the city's appearance should be dismantled.

"Considering the popularity of pigeon raising in Beijing, we made the revision in order to regulate the sport and minimize its influence on daily life in neighborhoods," said Li Zhijuan, vice director of the legal affairs office of the city Congress.

Dissenting voices

"There have been no more than five complaints about our members filed annually for the past two years. Most pigeon disputes involve non-association members, some of whom lack basic respect of others' rights," Lin said.

Wang Shujie, 67, convinced his son to dismantle the pigeon coops that have protruded from her house on Xicui road in Haidian district for 18 years.

"I read the regulation in the newspapers and realized the pigeon coops sticking out of my balcony really give a bad impression, since my building faces the main street," Wang told *Beijing Today*.

Sun Kecheng, vice secretary of the Chaoyang district homing pigeon association, has had to give up his 16-year hobby of raising pigeons because he lives in an older building that does not have balconies.

"Of course I'm not happy about having to give up my favorite hobby. As the local association leader, however, I feel I have to take the lead in complying with the new order," he said.

The regulation has yet to take roost with around one-fifth of the total 3,000 association members in the district.

"It has not been easy to persuade pigeon lovers to get their coops off their balconies. Most volunteered to do so in the end, but some just could not understand the regulation," said Li Senlin from the Haidian branch of the Municipal Administration Office.

There has been an obvious increase in the number of complaints filed about disturbances from pigeons, in terms of their droppings, noise and unpleasant smell, since the passage of the regulation, according to Li. He attributed that increase to people

ple finally having a real outlet for their gripes about the birds.

For He Zhenxiang, 45, a former employee of Beijing Automobile Group Company, the new regulation is nothing short of unacceptable.

"I think the regulation should be more flexible, such as not being as strict about coops outside residential buildings that do not face the street. Plus, for people who live on the top floor of their buildings and have paid for extra area on the roof, why shouldn't they be able to raise pigeons up there?"

Balancing regulation, hobby

He Zhenxiang is hardly the first pigeon raiser to object to the regulation. Most hobbyists, however, seem to be trying to seek a balance between their beloved sport and the convenience of others.

Wang Zhijun, who has raised pigeons for over 16 years, decided to rebuild his coops to meet the regulation instead of giving up.

"It's true that pigeon raising can cause inconvenience to neighbors. Only when we respect the rights of others and try to be considerate will the sport of pigeon raising really take off in the city," said Wang.

In the view of Yang Guoying, editor-in-chief of *Race Pigeon World* magazine and chairman of the Shunyi district homing pigeon association, the implementation of the regulation will set a legal framework for the promotion of the healthy development of pigeon raising.

"Though pigeon raising deserves legal protection and respect from society, pigeon lovers make up only a small fraction of the city's residents, so it makes sense to protect the majority with a regulation like this," he said.



One stand offers customers instruction in how to cook protected tree frogs.

Photo by Qu Liyan

Where Wild Things Are, Customers Aren't

By Xiao Rong

Reception to a local wildlife product market that offers such exotic foods as ostrich eggs, tree frogs, partridges and spotted deer meat has been chilly since it opened on October 13.

The market in the No. 4 hall of Panda Roundabout Market has been described by sponsor Beijing Shenquanfu Trade Company as the first wildlife and game sales center in the capital and all of North China.

Nearly half of the market's floor space remains empty, with only six or seven companies selling domesticated wildlife products, most of which were limited to hunks of frozen meat from varied wild game.

One vendor selling live tree frogs, who requested anonymity, told *Beijing Today* that he has only managed to sell seven or eight kilograms of frogs daily since the market opened.

"There are too few visitors and most people who do come do so out of curiosity, not to buy. Those who purchase products usually ask to see our license from the city forestry bureau to make sure deals are legal," he added.

Beijing Minrifa Food Company has also set up a stall in the market, hanging its management license clearly on the wall to assuage doubtful customers. The company focuses on the domestication and breeding of partridges and other wild animals.

When asked whether she was planning to buy anything at the market, one woman consumer expressed confusion about how wildlife could be sold and eaten.

"The market has been officially authorized by the municipal forestry bureau to sell domesticated animal products. We have strict inspection measures to prevent any illegal wildlife trade," said Li Qinhai, manager of Beijing Shenquanfu Trading Company.

Legality aside, he was cautious about predicting when his company would see return on the 1 million yuan it has invested in the market, due to the sensitive nature of the goods for sale.

"We learnt during our investigations that the animal domestication and breeding industries in the suburbs of Beijing are actually on the decline, because

most farmers don't know how to develop products for the market. So we just want to act as a bridge to both boost the domestication industry and stimulate the consumption of domesticated wildlife products," Li added.

Beijing Today contacted the wildlife protection office of the municipal forestry bureau, and the bureau's authorization of the market was confirmed by director Wang Minzhong. He was quick to point out there is strict supervision of the types of animals sold, all of which have below-grade-two national protection.

"This market is just one of our trial projects aimed at encouraging the local domestication and breeding industry by taking advantage of wildlife resources. Whether it will succeed in Beijing remains to be seen," he said.

Yang Dongping, vice director of the Friends of Nature, China's first popular environmental protection organization, is a steadfast opponent of the market and paints a far darker picture of its possible effects.

"One of the basic measures needed to protect endangered animals is a ban on wildlife trade. Once a market exists, profits will almost undoubtedly drive wildlife trade to increase, posing a great threat to wild animals," said Yang.

He added that the National Forestry Bureau's basic guideline concerning wildlife protection, "protect wildlife resources and encourage domestication and reasonable exploitation", demands further discussion and clarification.

"The most efficient way of protecting wildlife is to protect their habitat instead of domestication or breeding, which can only result in more capturing and killing of wild animals. That is a phenomenon we have already seen many times in China," Yang said.

He appealed for the revision of China's Wildlife Protection Law to control wildlife trade and ban the eating of wild animals.

The problem, said Yang, lies in people's interest in putting more animals, domesticated or not, onto their dining tables. Having people feel comfortable eating a new animal comes at the price of the endangerment and possible loss of that species.

EDITOR: LIU FENG

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City Mayor: No Red Light for Private Cars, Public Transport Remains Priority

By Shan Jinliang

While people are blaming the sharply rising number of private cars for the city's traffic jams, Beijing Mayor Liu Qi said last week that the capital will develop more effective public transportation but will not halt the increase of private cars.

Liu said the best method to deal with traffic jams is improving public transport. He notes that "public transport as priority" is the shared principle of all the world's big cities and private cars should not be blamed for Beijing's traffic jams.

Liu said it is not practical to support the city's public transport system with

electronic buses only, suggesting that a light rail system is the cure for the current traffic jams. He added that the city announced in its Olympic Action Plan released this March that its plan was to develop rail transportation with light rail as the core.

Liu said the city will pour more than 40

billion US dollars into building 300 kilometers of light rail lines by 2008, bringing Beijing up to the standard of the world's major cities.

Liu predicts that 60 percent of city residents will travel by public transport by 2008, while 20 percent will use cars and 20 percent will ride bicycles.

MOFTEC Calls for Public Opinions on WTO Members' Trade Policies

China is calling for public opinions on the examination of the trade policies of other World Trade Organization (WTO) members, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) said in Beijing Monday.

According to WTO rules, such examinations improve the transparency of its members' trade policies and also ensure the strict implementation of their WTO obligations.

In line with understandings reached by WTO members in 1996 and common practice, the greater the impact a member has on world trade, the more frequently it should receive trade policy examinations from other members.

MOFTEC said in a press release that China has already successfully taken part in such examinations of the trade policies of India and Australia.

Relevant information and final examination results are available on the Internet at www.chinawto.gov.cn.

(Xinhua)

China to Reform Mining Policy to Attract Foreign Funds

China is improving the investment environment for its mining industry in line with international standards, and foreign investors involved in this sector should be optimistic, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Monday.

Shou Jiahua, vice-minister of land and resources, was quoted as saying the Chinese mining industry is marching towards a fairer and more transparent investment environment to attract more foreign investors.

Shou said some problems in the Chinese mining industry, which used to turn foreign investors away and suffered a lack of necessary legal guidelines, limited geological data and a lack of an effective market mechanism for the transaction of mining rights, have been overcome.

Attracting more foreign funds is a pressing task for this industry if it wants to upgrade, she said.

The much-maligned Chinese stipulation giving "priority" in mining developments to exploration groups is expected to be revoked in the coming revision of China's mining law by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Shou said.

Shou said international practice gives the discoverer of a new mineral deposit the right to mine and market the raw materials, while China's "priority" clause leaves an impression that the discoverer is not assured any right to follow-up exploitation and marketing.

Although the "priority" clause has in most cases guaranteed the right of companies to explore and market the raw materials they discover, it is better to directly legislate on the exploitation rights of companies, Shou said.

Also being considered are rules that will help solve problems between local authorities and mine managers and reforms that will streamline approval procedures for the establishment of joint venture mining enterprises, she said.

'Shadowing Project' Promotes Leadership Training in Unis

By Ivy Zhang

The Sino-US Seminars of the Leadership Training Program of Chinese and US Universities (LTP) were held Saturday, shedding light on what has been called the "shadowing project".

This program is conducted by the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. It is an attempt to promote new forms of exchange and collaboration between universities in China and the United States.

Twelve one-to-one partnerships will be formed for each round of the program between university leaders from both countries.

"This program is nicknamed the 'shadowing project' because the university presidents and vice presidents will follow their counterparts like shadows. In a word, they will do the same as their partners," said Shen Xuesong, acting director of the American and African Programs Department, CEAIE.

Chinese participants will be selected from those who can speak English without difficulty, have been in their positions for at least two years and can commit to returning to that same position for a period of one additional year. American participants will be selected based on their commitment to initiating programs of exchange and collaboration after taking the program.

The duration of the Leadership Training Program for participants will be a maximum of three weeks, but can be reduced to two weeks depending on individual schedules.

The first group of five Chinese vice presidents visited the US this May. The second group of seven will follow next April. The 12 American participants came to China this Monday.



International Experts Talk About Olympic Preparations

Gerhard Heiberg (third from right), chairman of the Marketing Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), attended a meeting with the Beijing Olympics Organizing Committee on the games' preparations at the Qinglan Plaza Tuesday.

Heiberg is heading a 35-member IOC Sponsored Advisory

Group (SAG) on a four-day visit to Beijing. SAG, composed of IOC marketing experts and representatives from IOC sponsors and broadcasting groups, will also visit the Olympic Green and the National Olympic Center.

(Shan Jinliang)
Xinhua Photo

City Opens Ocean Shipping Port

By Zhao Hongyi

Local officials and businessmen celebrated the opening of Chaoyang Port, the first ocean shipping channel and customs clearance port in the inland city of Beijing, October 22. Beijing, which has no access to the sea, is expected to become an important distribution center for ocean shipping in northern China.

Located in the southeast corner of the city on the Beijing-Tianjin-Tanggu Expressway, Chaoyang Port is a part of the Beijing Logistics Hub established in 1994. The hub is a cargo redistribution and logistics service center for domestic commodities. Chaoyang Port was originally set up at the same time as the logistics hub to collect cargo from the hinterland to be exported from Tianjin. But, until now, exporters had to finish all customs clearance procedures in Tianjin.

Chaoyang Port, with cooperation from the Port of Tianjin, has now started to provide customs clearance, commodity inspection and certification, warehousing and insurance services. Exporters can now deliver their goods for ocean shipping and finish all customs clearance procedures in Chaoyang. The time taken to clear customs is thus reduced to less than 24 hours from the original 48 hours. Shipping carriers like Maersk, Yang Ming and COSCO have established offices at the port for cargo collecting, and port logistics service providers like Hutchison Whampoa and Kerry BHL Logistics are also present, according to port officials.

Also opened at the ceremony Tuesday was the Beijing Inland Container Depot, which acts as a redistribution center for containers.

In return for its cooperation, Tianjin will use the Capital Airport of Beijing for air cargo transportation.



Goods for shipping overseas can now be cleared in Chaoyang.
Photo by Qu Liyan

"The new functions of Chaoyang Port fulfill one of Beijing's long time ambitions — to have an ocean shipping port of its own," said Zhang Mao, vice mayor of Beijing, who is in charge of the municipality's foreign trade.

With the Tianzu Air Cargo Transportation Port in the northeastern part of Beijing and the Fengtai Railway Cargo Distribution Port in the south, Chaoyang Port makes Beijing the largest logistics center for cargo distribution in northern China, particularly when it comes to exports, according to the vice mayor.

"We welcome exporters from northern China, northeastern China and the western part of China to deliver their cargo for export at Chaoyang Port. We'll handle everything at competitive prices," says Jiang Huibi, chairman of Beijing Inland Port International Logistics Co. Ltd., operator of the port.

Nobel Laureate Invited to Help Combat Mad Cow Disease

Dr. D. Carleton Gajdusek, winner of the 1976 Nobel Prize for medicine, has been invited by the Beijing Inspection and Quarantine Bureau to act as a consultant for the bureau's mad cow disease lab.

Gajdusek, awarded the Nobel Prize for his discoveries concerning "new mechanisms in the origin and dissemination of infectious diseases," said he would help China improve the country's research into and prevention of mad cow disease.

Wei Chuanzhong, director of the



Dr. D. Carleton Gajdusek
Photo by Guo Wenjun

bureau, said the issue of food safety increasingly concerns all levels of government and the spread of mad cow disease poses a threat to mankind.

Wei said he believes that with the American laureate's expertise, the lab will advance in terms of testing methods for the disease.

The bureau's mad cow disease lab is China's first and it has mastered a number of ways to test for the disease. A research center to further the country's fight against the deadly disease is in the planning stages. (Xinhua)

Foreign Trade Gazette Explains China's WTO-related Regulations

By Shan Jinliang

In a move to meet China's commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) began early this month to publish an official paper on the laws and regulations concerning foreign trade, services for foreign trade and foreign currency exchange.

The publication is called the China Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Gazette. The first trial issue was released October 9.

"All the newly enacted foreign trade-related laws will be printed in the weekly magazine," said Yuan Gaoqiang, a senior official from the ministry in charge of the publication. "We are in contact with the State Council, its ministries and commissions, the National People's Congress and local governments around China to get all the newest laws and regulations."

Compiled by a newly established division of the ministry, copies of the magazine will be given to the ministries and commissions under the State Council, China's economic organizations overseas, foreign embassies or official representative offices in China, the National Library and key universities in Beijing, according to Yuan.

Yuan said the publication will be available to the public from January 1, 2003. Domestic individuals or foreign trade companies can subscribe for the 2003 issues from today by calling 6519 8346. Foreign individuals and organizations can gain copies through their countries' official representatives in China, as the magazine does not yet have overseas subscription services. Yuan points out that the publication is in Chinese and only has English translations of the headlines.

An annual subscription costs 390 yuan, which includes postage fees.

Red-Seal Documents Open to Public

By Xiao Rong

The previously confidential official papers of the Beijing Municipal Government are now accessible to the public in the form of a bi-monthly journal.

Over 500 have already subscribed to the journal to gain access to the documents. Private enterprises, law offices and police stations show the highest enthusiasm.

Commonly known as "red-seal documents" because of the red stamp saying "confidential" that they all carry, the official papers have been available only to government officials and civil servants for decades.

The journal has been published since 2000 by the municipal government to increase administrative transparency.

The journal, which is available to readers both at home and abroad, includes the regulations, policies, decrees and decisions made by the municipal government.

The size of the journal changes according to the number of regulations passed.

"The public issuance of the journal will greatly benefit our work, making official information accessible to us in a timely and accurate fashion," said Wei Guiqin, director of Beijing Huiyuan Law Office, one of the first subscribers to the journal.

Besides local subscribers, residents from other regions like Guangdong, Heilongjiang and the Hong Kong Special Administration Region also show great interest in the journal.

Costing 120 yuan for a year's subscription or 24 volumes, subscriptions are now being taken for 2003.

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The fine gold work and colors still shine on this sixth century Bodhisattva.

Photos by Miao Yajie



A fragment of a Buddhist statue unearthed in Qingzhou

Compassion Reaches Across Ages

Qingzhou Buddhas on Display at China Millennium Monument

By Iris Miao

One hundred and eight Buddhist statues from the Qingzhou Museum, Shandong Province are now on display in the Art Museum of the China Millennium Monument. The statues, including eight never before seen by the general public, have been carefully selected from those discovered in the Longxing Temple next to the Qingzhou Museum. Four hundred Buddhist statues dating back to a period from the sixth century to the 12th century were unearthed at the temple six years ago. It caused a stir when the quantity and variety of the statues were revealed, considering the quality of their craftsmanship, their color paintings and their gold work. The discovery, made on October 7-15, 1996, was proclaimed as one of China's top ten most important archaeological finds of that year.

Qingzhou has a history of more than 2,000 years. From the third century to the tenth century, it was a center of Buddhism and numerous Buddhist relics and historical records show how Buddhism once flourished in the area.

The earliest statue among the exhibits was made in 529 AD, and the latest in 1026, covering a time span of 500 years, which includes the golden era of stone Buddha carving in China. The most precious of the statues are the ones with the most color and gold, which remain despite nearly 1,000 years under the earth. The color and the gold provide evidence for historical records that say Buddhist statues of the period were painted with colors and lain with gold.

The archaeological discovery has made Qingzhou a hot spot for researchers, museum staff and art lovers from across the world. A few months after the statues were discovered, some were exhibited in the US, Japan and Hong Kong, and last year they were sent on a European tour covering Germany, Switzerland and the UK.

Sun Xinsheng, deputy curator of Qingzhou Museum, still remembers the last three days of a two-month exhibition at the Berlin State Museum. Visitors had to queue outside the exhibition hall to see the statues because it was too crowded inside.

"The curator of the Berlin museum told me that the last time the museum had seen so many visitors was 20 years ago when the terracotta warriors from Xi'an were on display. The Qingzhou exhibition was the museum's second grand sensation," said Sun Xinsheng.



A thick layer of gold remains on this hand.

By Iris Miao

The capital's autumn auction season will begin next Wednesday when the China Guardian Auction holds its preview at the Kunlun Hotel. The China Guardian, Huachen Auctions and Pacific Auction houses will jointly kick off the first round of this season's collectors' and art lovers' gala. A total of over 7,000 lots in such categories as ancient and modern Chinese painting and calligraphy, Chinese oil painting and sculpture, porcelain, furniture, rare books, stamps and coins will go under the hammer.

The three auction houses each have their own emphases and characteristics.

Gaining a record price for an ancient Chinese painting this spring, the nine-year-old China Guardian house not only reinforced its leading position on the market, but also brought the attention of the general public to the value of ancient Chinese painting and antiques and made the house's nine special auctions to be held next month events awaited with excitement. Of the 3,700 lots to be auctioned, those worth mentioning could take up the whole of this page, but a landscape by Wang Hui (1632-1717), who was one of the "six masters of the Qing Dynasty", is without doubt among the most eye-catching. The estimated price of the piece is 8-10 million yuan.

The Huachen Auction house, although only making its debut this spring, seems already a seasoned

Autumn Auctions Begin Next Week



hand. According to the general manager, Gan Xuejun, an auction is a cultural economic activity that must be responsible to society. As such, auction houses should not only sell what sells well, but should also "excavate the essence of a culture."

Lotus Pond, painted by Sheng Changnian in 1363, is one such product of their excavation work. The late Yuan Dynasty painter, who was previously known to have left only one painting, *The Willow Tree and the Bird*, now kept in the Palace Museum, was recorded in many important painting history books for his style. Little was known about the painter himself, and when *Lotus Pond* was discovered, the date recorded on it showed that he lived for at least another 11 years after he painted *The Willow Tree and the Bird* in 1352.

The fierce bidding for the 7,000 top-notch artifacts at the auctions will bring some warmth to the early winter in Beijing.

China Guardian
When: Preview, 30 October - 1 November. Auction, 2-3 November
Where: 2F Ball Room, Kunlun Hotel
Huachen Auctions
When: Preview, 31 October - 2 November. Auction, 3-4 November
Where: 3F Ball Room, Jingguang Center
Pacific Auction
When: Preview, 30 October - 1 November. Auction, 2-3 November
Where: 18F, King Wing Hotel



① Six-faced vase made during the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795), Pacific Auction.

② Ode to the Motherland by Qi Baishi, Huachen Auctions.

③ A pair of huanghuali wood compound cabinets, China Guardian.

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Bamboo Yard by Zhang Yonghe

By Zhao Pu

A series of five books newly released by the Chinese Architectural Industry Publishing House presents five outstanding young architects, displaying their bold designs and unconventional concepts. "This is an effort to draw attention to contemporary architectural culture," according to Du Jian, CEO of the Basis Culture Development Company, which produced the series.

Each of the five books in the *Architectural Series of the Basis Library* offers a collection of the designs by each of the five architects as well as a range of reviews on these designs written by the architects themselves. The books can be seen as a joint exhibition of works by the five architects.

Three of them, Zhang Yonghe, Wang Shu and Liu Jiankun, attended the *Earth and Wood — Five Chinese Architects Exhibition* in Berlin last year. This series gathers their works together again. The two others, Cui Kai and Tang Hua, are also regarded as two of the most active young architects in China. All of them teach architecture in universities.

Unlike previous architectural books, this series focuses on the culture and concepts that are behind and can be seen in architectural designs, rather than techniques.

Here, each of the architects illustrates their past and present designs with reviews conveying their understanding of the designs from not only an architectural perspective, but also from the perspectives of cultural background, art and even personal experience.

"Design begins at the turning point

Read Up on Contemporary Architecture

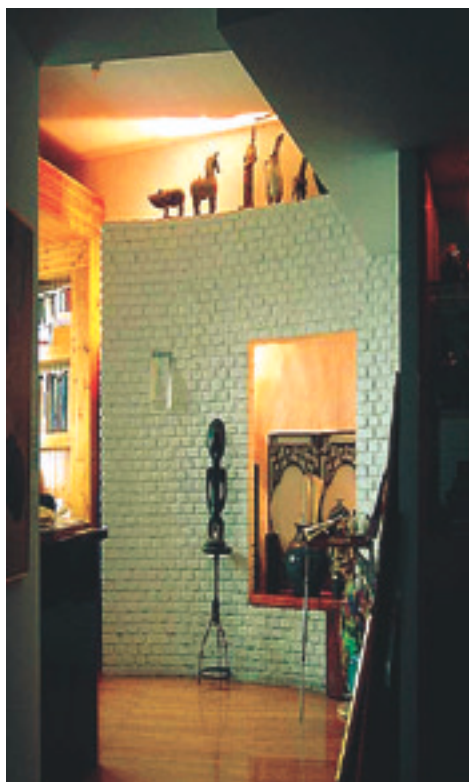
of feeling," said Wang Shu, author of the *Beginning of Design*, one of the five books. "Before I design a building, I first think about the roles of those who are going to use it. They are so real to me that I chat with them while I am designing." The young architect, born in the 1960's, is one of the pioneers of a new school called "amateur architecture", which offers an alternative to traditional and professional architecture.

The editorial team of the series gathers about 30 of the most successful architects in China.

"This series of books breaks a new path for contemporary, experimental and even conceptual architecture and brings the new concepts and aesthetic views of young architects to the attention of the public, opening this area to discussion," said the chief editor of the series, Wang Mingxian, at a book donation ceremony at the Central Academy of Fine Arts last week.



Morning Star Mathematics Center by Zhang Yonghe



Workshop of Silence by Wang Shu

Getting to the Core of Things

By Zhu Lin

Visual elements are reduced to a bare minimum in Kuo Dingyuan's photos, leaving the greatest possible space for philosophical atmosphere. The exhibition of Kuo's photos, *Vast in Colors*, reflects his quiet heart and his special understanding of life, which are precious things in today's fast-paced and hectic world.

Focus on feeling

The photos shown in the *Vast in Colors* exhibition, which was held at the Photo Gallery of the Masses from October 11 to 21, are scenic images taken in Fujian, Shaanxi and Taiwan provinces. Being a freelance photographer from Taiwan Province, Kuo has a special way of catching the moment and the environment. Kuo's photos are about space. He often positions his horizons at the lowest or highest level to allow for a feeling of vastness and emptiness. Moreover, the focuses of his photos are generally small and seemingly insignificant.

He insists that the most important thing is feeling. In *Autumn Remains*, the withered stems of lotus make a magic picture that is both geometric and sentimental. In *Floating Stones*, it is hard to see exactly what is the image depicted at first sight. Black stones huddle together on the seashore like little seals. The image strikes the onlooker first with a strong feeling and then with curiosity as to what it is.

Some photographers ask Kuo: "You arrange space in your photos in such a creative way. Do you mean to surpass old forms and techniques?" "No," answers Kuo. "If my style is different, it's just because my point of view is different. If I have something to surpass, then it's my own understanding of life."

The hardest thing for a photographer is how to crack photographic technique and move on to create art. "What really counts is not the picture in the lens, but the photographer behind the lens," Kuo says.

From the outer world to the inner

Having graduated from the Department of Philosophy of Tunghai University, Taiwan Province, Kuo brings his philosophical thinking to his photos. "When I studied at the university, I absorbed knowledge from the masters of philosophical theory. When I started to take photos, I looked for what I wanted from the inside."

"I can see at the first sight that Kuo's photos have a philosophical bent," says Zhang Zhongheng, one of the visitors to the

exhibition.

The philosophical questions being turned over in Kuo's mind can be seen in his photos.

In *Don't Go to the Seaside on a Rainy Day*, the tip of a rock can be seen breaking the surface of the sea. In the distance, two boats can be seen, although they are so tiny that they are almost invisible.

"I wouldn't have taken the photo without the boats. I think that if something is really important, it doesn't matter if it's hard to see," says Kuo. "If the boats weren't there, the picture wouldn't have been worth taking, even though they are so small."

Elemental

Kuo's understanding of life can be seen clearly in his photos, giving them their specific character. "His attitude towards scenery is cool, as if his aim is to draw back in amazement at the chaos of life," says Chen Yi-chih, a poet from Taiwan Province.



Waiting Photos by Kuo Dingyuan

Waiting is about the conflict between what one expects to be important and what is actually important. It was taken in Fujian Province last year. Kuo wanted to take a picture at a crossroads, and started to wait there for the image he wanted. He waited and waited, but nothing happened. After a long wait, he was about to lose hope that he would find his image when he suddenly noticed the simple things around him — a statue and an electricity pole quietly looking at each other. Things then became clear.

"That was the image I was looking for: the image of waiting. I hadn't realized that for me the closest and simplest things are the most important," says Kuo.

When we get down to the most basic and minimalist level, then it becomes possible to explore something different. "This is also how I approach life," says Kuo.


Vast in Colors will be held again at the Beijing Film Academy in December.



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Photo by Luker

Go Home, Kenny G

By Yu Shanshan

Go Home. It's a tune that's familiar to millions. Even though it's played everywhere from supermarkets and VCD stores to restaurants, it's still popular. So popular that it's persuaded Kenny G to come on his first ever tour of China. Last Sunday, the 46-year-old sax god took the stage at Worker's Stadium in Beijing.

Beijing is the final stage on Kenny G's tour of China, which began in Shanghai on Oct. 15. He's making up for the years in which, despite many invitations, he never came to China.

"It's always been a dream of mine to tour in China," says Kenny G, with his ever-present smile. "China's unique culture fascinates me, and this visit will

likely inspire some of my future compositions." Like other visiting foreign musicians, he has recomposed Chinese folk songs such as *Jasmine Flower* to try to please his listeners here.

At 17, Kenny began playing professionally for Barry White's Love Unlimited Orchestra. With over 70 million albums sold to date, Kenny G has proven himself to be one of the biggest-selling musicians in the world.

The multi-platinum superstar has received a number of prestigious awards including a Grammy, an American Music Award, a Soul Train Award, a World Music Award and an N.A.A.C.P. Image Award. His newest album *Paradise* led by the single *One More Time* will soon arrive in China.

Well, Lui Likes it



Ray Lui

By Wang Chunzhu

Following the rumors that Zhang Yimou was trying to acquire the film copyright for Ah Lai's *The End*, a novel about the rise and fall of a Tibetan landlord's family. It came as a surprise to learn that Hong Kong actor Ray Lui has snapped up the rights instead.

Lui said it was after he finished reading the English version of *The End* that he made up his mind to turn it into a film.

Ray Lui is discussing cooperating on the project with several American companies, although the exact starting time has not been decided yet.

He is confident *The End* will be a hit. "Whoever's in it will become a star", he said.

London Brass Band Comes to Beijing

By Iris Miao

The London Brass Band, one of the most famous brass bands in Europe, is coming to Beijing on October 30.

All of the band members used to be leading performers at the German National Philharmonic, a kind of annual music camp for young talent established by Leonard Bernstein and conductor and pianist Justus Frantz.

Rather than the usual formal marching tunes played by standard brass bands, their repertoire includes classical pieces, jazz and modern music. The quintet started their world tour of Europe, Asia, and America in 2001, and their new album *International Brass* has just been released.

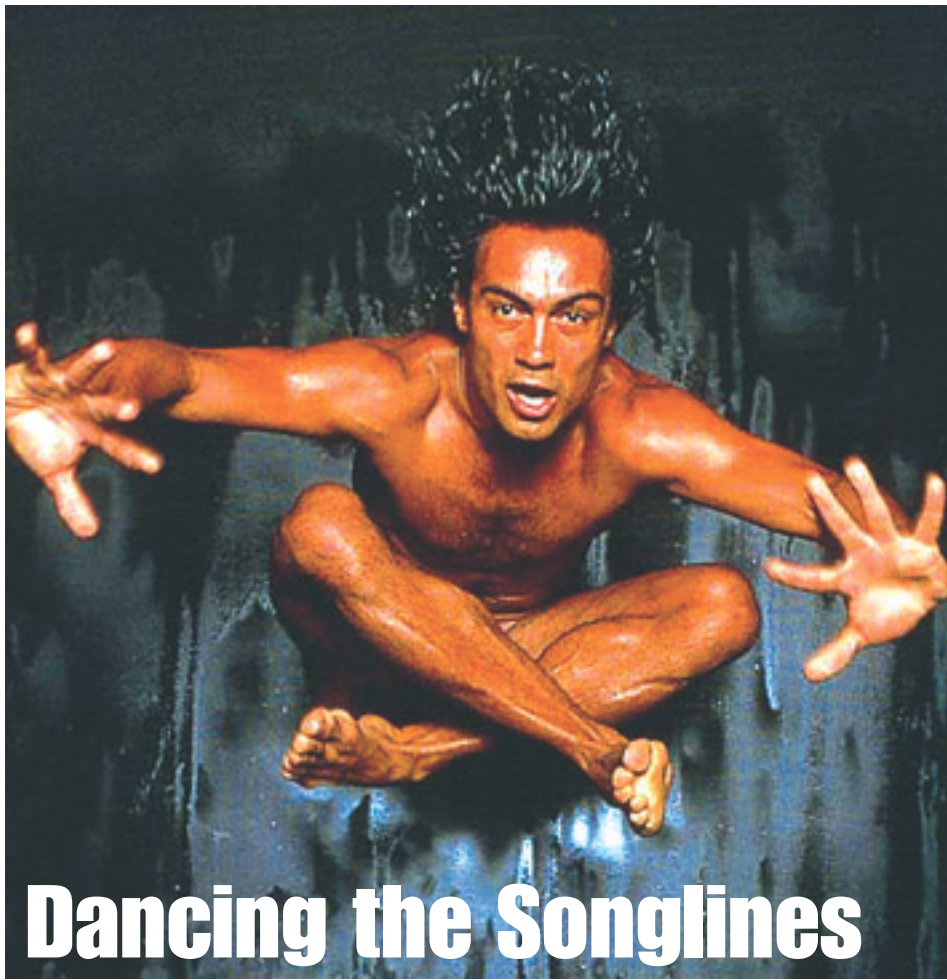
Their one-night performance in Beijing will range from Renaissance Dances to contemporary music.

Where: Music Hall of the National Library, 33, Zhongguancun Nandajie

When: October 30, 7:30pm

Ticket: 50 - 280 yuan

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Dancing the Songlines

By Wang Chunzhu

Still remember the colorful Aboriginal section of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games opening ceremony? The company that produced it has come to Beijing. Director and choreographer Stephen Page and his Bangarra Dance Theatre presented their newest piece *Corroboree* this week, at the 21st Century Theatre.

The dancers caked themselves in white powder, stood under a stream of fine sand as it cascaded from the rafters and rolled around in clouds of dust rising from the stage. It's part of a visual feast that is supposed to melt modern dance and ancient Australian culture.

The company says its mission is "To maintain the link between the traditional indigenous cultures of Australia and new forms of contemporary artistic expression".

The new work *Corroboree* has three

sections, each of which correspond to the beliefs of Australia's indigenous peoples. The dance reflects the struggle to survive and the unity of ancient cultures.

"With this production Bangarra is inviting audiences to journey with us to challenge, awaken and cleanse their spirits," says director Stephen Page. "It is about the transformation of the human spirit and relationship between Aboriginal people, creatures and the land."

Beijing Modern Dance Theatre art director Willy Tsao says, "They have adopted modern techniques and contemporary aesthetic standards to express their traditional culture. And they have turned it into a piece of work that is meaningful to all people."

"It's not easy for the audience to understand contemporary dance sometimes, but the message of this production is perfectly clear," he says.

WORLDWIDE



American Dreams

NBC Picks Up Two Freshman Shows, Ends Providence

It was two up and one down at NBC on Monday, as the network announced full-season orders for freshman dramas *Boomtown* and *American Dreams* but said a five-year veteran, *Providence*, will get the chop in December.

NBC has been behind CBS in overall viewers this season but generally has easily lead in the crucial 18-49 demographic, prized by advertisers as their target audience.

"Obviously if the show had taken off this fall we could have extended its run," he said.

(Reuters)



Celine Dion talks to photographers during a photocall in Belgium.

Celine Dion Prepares for Las Vegas in Belgian Rain

Canadian pop diva Celine Dion has glowed in the glamour of Grammy awards and is preparing to hit the capital of glitz with her own Las Vegas show, but for now it's rehearsals in rainy Belgium.

Dion has teamed up with Belgium-based director Franco Dragone, best known for his flamboyant, colorful Cirque du Soleil productions, to create a musical extravaganza called *A New Day*, in which Dion said she would sing, dance and even fly.

"I'm having the best time of my life right now. It's really, really amazing," said Dion, who gave birth to a son Rene-Charles last year.

A New Day will be staged in Caesar's Palace in the casino heartland of Las Vegas and is due to premiere next March.

(Reuters)

Publisher Rules Out Eighth Harry Potter Book

British author J.K. Rowling will not write an eighth episode of the popular Harry Potter series, her agent said Monday.

Rowling, whose boy wizard tales have made her a worldwide publishing phenomenon, dismissed British media speculation she may be planning an extra book.

"The plan is to have only seven books in the series," Neil Blair, of

Christopher Little literary agents, told Reuters. "There is no truth in the rumors."

The Scotsman reported that U.S. film studio Warner Brothers, which releases its second Harry Potter film next month, has registered three more *Harry Potter* titles as trademarks, raising the possibility of an eighth volume.

(Reuters)

Pacino Mesmerizing in Arturo Ui

Epic theater demands an epic production, and the National Actors Theatre delivers with a smashing revival of *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, Bertoldt Brecht's massive agit-prop masterpiece.



John Voight, right, greets Al Pacino

Interest has been high in the show — which has a top ticket price of \$100 — primarily because of its star, Al Pacino, and he's mesmerizing in the title role. But the real headliner is director Simon McBurney who has marshaled a large cast with the precision of a military commander launching an all-out attack.

(AP)

Film Examines Life of Controversial Artist Kahlo

For nearly 20 years, almost everyone in Hollywood was afraid of Frida. Until now.

With actress Salma Hayek and director Julie Taymor behind it, a movie about the unconventional life and work of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo is ready to be painted across the silver screen, starting on Friday.

Kahlo, who died in 1954 at age 47, was married to famed Mexican muralist and painter Diego Rivera and had love affairs with the mistresses of her husband, not to mention Soviet political exile Leon Trotsky. Kahlo and Rivera were communists, never a popular topic for Hollywood to tackle. Many of her paintings were as disturbing as they were provocative, as well as hard to represent on screen until Taymor came along.

But there was equally good reason to tell her story, Hayek said in a recent interview with reporters.

"This film had the capacity to be a period piece that was extremely modern," said the Mexican-born actress.

(Reuters)



Hayek is shown in a scene from the film.

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Curtain Call

By Liang HongLing



Patterned cloth squares can add beauty to walls or table tops



White curtain printed with ancient Chinese characters



Photos by Li Shuzhuan

Looking for the right curtains to cover the windows of your new home? You're likely to find what you want at Ming Xuan Jia Ju, a cute store located opposite Ren Min university that specializes in fabric for curtains.

The 20-square-meter store has been carefully laid out by owner Jin Xiu. A surprising over 600 kinds of curtain materials are on offer, ranging in price from 50 to 400 yuan per meter. They encompass materials imported and made domestically, and represent a massive variety of colors, patterns and cloths.

The most striking piece is a silk curtain that hangs in the middle of the store like a screen. The fabric is white silk printed with characters from ancient Chinese seals, such as "福" "龙" "风" "飘". The dramatic curtains can breathe an air of ancient mystery into modern homes.

Thin gauze curtains are a good choice for those who love sunlight, while cotton curtains printed with large bright flowers offer their own kind of lively vibe.

The store also offers sofa, pillow and quilt covers with unusual designs to complete redecorating efforts, as well as silk flowers to add detail. Owner Jin Xiu will go to customers' houses for free to measure and cut curtains to fit individual needs.

Where: Wai 39, building 1, Shuangyushuxili, Haidian District

Open: 9 am - 9 pm
Tel: 6252 3891



Walk this Way

By Liang Hongling

Xiao Hu, a young Beijing man, had enough of struggling to find shoes that fit not only his feet, but also his taste for the hip and unusual. His drive to stand out in the crowd finally led him to open his own shoe store, Shu Yi Pai, which means "setting style."

This small store is crammed with footwear from brand name makers, such as Timberland, Vans and Piko, at very reasonable prices. Products for sale range from slippers and sandals to sneakers and hiking boots, meaning there is something to meet almost every personal style or seasonal need.

Outside of their cool designs, the fact that there are only one or two pairs for each size of each style mean that customers do not have to worry about seeing their new skids all over city streets.

Shu Yi Pai also sells stylish T-shirts in a range of colors and designs.

Where: 138, Xijiekou Nandaie, Xicheng District
Open: 9 am - 9 pm
Tel: 6618 3246



Socks to match cool skids, 6 yuan



Leather clogs, 120 yuan

Teaching Tea

By Yu Yang

Du Hu Fang is not a run-of-the-mill tea store. Above the tea and tea sets on sale, the store is also an informal school, offering customers instruction on the traditions and beauty of tea culture.

Owner Xu Guang, a former university teacher, says he looks at his store as a school first, one with no real boss. His main goal is to teach people about the history and customs of drinking tea, a retail method with benefits for all involved.

"We're in our important founding stage, since the store has been open and running for only one month," Xu says. At this point, most of Xu's lessons about tea are for his staff, many of whom are university undergrads, to help them improve their understanding of tea culture. He sometimes even asks his employees to turn in papers on subjects such as marketing or tea history.

Another unusual service run at the store is a membership system, which comes for a one-time cost of 800 yuan. Those who sign up will receive small books on tea culture and around five kinds of high-quality teas per



A teapot designed by store owner Xu Guang
Photos by Li Shuzhuan



month, meaning up to 70 different teas per year.

The varied teas, teapots, tea sets and decorations in the store are all for sale, with sets going for an average of around 800 yuan and solo teapots priced from 200 to 3,000 yuan.

Where: northwest corner of the fourth floor in Gong Mei Plaza, Wangfujing

Open: 9 am - 9 pm

Tel: 13520127823

Tripping the Light Fantastic

By Salinda

Unusual rotating lights stand out in the window to Liang Tiao Yu, a gift store that specializes in the out-of-the-ordinary. All the goods inside, ranging from stationary to lamps to fishtanks, show a creative touch.

Wildly designed lamps are a highlight of the store. Some look like boxes and contain rotating pictures projected against screens, most with sea life themes. They lend an interesting air to any room for the minimal price of 140 yuan. Another unusual lamp is one that looks like a tacky angel doll with illuminated wings.

The store also offers new takes on the classic lava lamp. These lamps still contain wax that bobs around when heated by the light bulb below, but they have bases crafted from resin in the shapes of aliens, bears, dinosaurs and other campy designs. Their colors are picked to match the bases, so a red and white, volcano-like lamp goes with a dinosaur base, while the polar bear base is topped with a blue and white lamp. They are a

good deal at an average price of 300 yuan.

Home decorations in the store show a similar eye for the wacky, such as eating utensils topped with rubber shapes like animals, fruits and vegetables in crafted containers.

Another corner of the store is home to ashtrays in the shape of shoes and cars, and mobile phone bases that look like toilets or human skulls. Such quirky items go for just 20 to 60 yuan.

The most expensive item in the store is a fish tank containing a sensitive light that pulses in beat to music that fetches 1,800 yuan.

Where: Room 637, sixth floor of Xindong'an Plaza in Wangfujing

Open: 9 am - 10 pm

Tel: 13911551907
contact Hong Tao



Wacky utensils in lichee and seal versions



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Angel doll with illuminated wings

Photos by Peng Jianwei

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A cranberry bog ready for harvest



Cranberries Bury Dry Autumn

By Wenlong

The cranberry is one of only three fruits native to North America, the two others being the blueberry and Concord grapes. The cranberry has been recognized for its distinctive and refreshing taste, medicinal qualities and domestic use for hundreds of years, and now cranberries and canned and bottled cranberry juice drinks have appeared in the capital city.

The name cranberry comes from the term crane berry, because the cranberry blossom resembles the head and bill of a crane. The cranberry vine can only grow in sandy bogs and marshes that would not support most other crops due to the acidity of the soil and low temperatures but no freezing spell during growing season.

In olden days, cranberry was an essential ingredient of the Native American's pemmican, a cake made of a mixture of deer meat and cranberries that kept for long periods of time. It was also used as part of a potion to cure infection from wounds and as a natural dye for clothing and blankets.

Cranberries have a rich antioxidant and vitamin C content and

are esteemed for their ability to help prevent many ailments. Natural components in cranberries help eliminate harmful bacteria from the urinary tract. Cranberry also helps maintain urinary tract health and eliminate harmful bacteria from the digestive system. During the heyday of clipper ships, American ships carried cranberries stored in barrels of cold water to be served to the crew to prevent scurvy.

Cranberries contain pockets of air and their quality is judged by their ability to bounce.

In addition to their refreshing juice, cranberries can be cooked and used in many delicious recipes.

A: Cranberry Kiss

Ingredients: Three ounces cranberry juice drink; one and a half ounces of orange juice and pineapple juice; one and a half ounces of soda water; orange wedge, garnish

Procedure: Pour cranberry juice drink, orange juice and pineapple juice into a glass with ice. Top with soda water, then garnish with orange wedge.

B: Cranberry-Strawberry Delight

Ingredients: four ounces cran-strawberry juice drink; two ounces Sprite; one teaspoon lemon juice; lemon slices

Procedure: Pour cran-strawberry juice drink and Sprite in a glass with ice. Add lemon juice and lemon slices.

C: Cranberry-Apple Ginger Tea

Ingredients: one English tea bag; four ounces boiling water; two ounces cran-apple juice drink; fresh ginger; one tablespoon honey

Procedure: Place tea bag, water, honey and fresh ginger in a mug. Steep five minutes and add cran-apple juice drink.

D: Cranberry Banana Bread

Ingredients: One cup sugar; one quarter cup butter or margarine, soft-

ened; one cup mashed banana; one quarter cup applesauce; one quarter skim milk; one egg; two cups flour; two teaspoons baking power; 16-ounce package sweetened dried cranberries; one quarter cup chopped walnuts, toasted

Procedure: Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit; mix sugar and butter together in a medium mixing bowl until completely blended. Add banana, applesauce, milk, and egg substitute, mixing well. Add dry ingredients, mixing just until moist. Stir in sweetened dried cranberries and nuts. Spread the batter evenly in a loaf pan. Bake for 60 to 65 minutes until a toothpick inserted into the center of the bread comes out clean. Remove from pan and cool. Makes one loaf.

Food Cures

By Wenlong

Traditional Chinese medicine instructs that autumn is a good time to balance the body after the heat of summer. Doing so requires heavy intake of water and moist elements and the consumption of mild foods.

Foods like pears, radishes, honey, dates, lotus seeds and grapes are excellent, natural ways to rehydrate a dry body, and all can be cooked into delicious, nutritious porridges at home.

Porridge A:

Prepare 5 grams of tremella (silver ear) and 100 grams of cleaned rice. Soak the tremella in water for several hours. Then cook the tremella and rice in water until the tremella is soft. Add several drops of honey or crystal sugar as a finishing touch to the porridge.

Porridge B:

Dice 10 grams of fresh lotus root. Cook the lotus with 50 grams of rice until the lotus is soft. Add some honey and dry osmanthus flowers to sweeten the porridge.

Other foods, such as lily seeds, can help calm frayed nerves. Lily seeds can be made into desserts or soup with lotus seed and tremella.

Honey suckle is also known as "forget worries grass" in Chinese, and is an excellent treatment for distracted people or those suffering from insomnia. It can be mixed with bean curd, sesame seeds and honey for a refreshing cold dish, or boiled with shredded pork.

Stressed people quickly run through their blood sugar, so they need to eat foods that pump sugar back into their bodies, such as dried longan. A sweet, reviving porridge can be made by cooking 50 grams of dried longan with 200 grams of rice until thick and then topping with crushed peanuts.

Nutritionists also suggest people under pressure get their fill of milk, whole wheat bread, seafood and beans, while avoided caffeine, sadly, in such forms as coffee and tea, and staying away from fried foods.



Daqingyuan Restaurant



Nanbeihe Restaurant



Der Landgraf Restaurant & Brauhaus



Mei'Ali Barbecue Restaurant



Douyichu Restaurant Photos by Zhuang Jian

Feasting in the Fangzhuang Region

By Wenlong

Daqingyuan Restaurant

This restaurant is run by veteran chef Wu Zhengge, 56, who started his career at the tender age of 14, and features Manchu style food.

In its extensive menu, the restaurant has 52 outstanding specialty dishes, all of which have origins in the Qing Imperial kitchen. Chef Wu has made the tremendously complicated Man Han Imperial Feast more than 500 times, so customers can rest assured what they order will be close if not the same as what the emperors of the past enjoyed.

The waitstaff is dressed for the part in Qing Dynasty clothes, even donning queue wigs. The second floor is an open dining room, while the underground level offers 29 separate rooms.

While the fare is somewhat exotic, prices are well within reason, such as sautéed chicken (*cixi heshou ji*) for 16 yuan, stewed shark fin with ginseng and deerhorn (*shenrong yuchi*) for 58 yuan, braised sea cucumber in soy sauce (*hongshao haishen*) priced at 180 yuan and braised venison (*baqi lurou*) for 45 yuan.

Open: 11am - 12pm **Add:** No.1, Pufang Lu, Fangzhuang **Tel:** 6768 8274; 6760 7243 **Average cost:** 60 - 70 yuan per person

Nanbeihe Restaurant

This restaurant stands out among its dozens of nearby competitors with its antique furniture, much of which dates back to the Ming Dynasty. Despite the haughty surroundings, the owner is dedicated to serving quality food at low prices, a philosophy that has won him a loyal following, including many retired Chinese diplomats.

One dish, Sishi Fish (*sishi yu*), was named for a former deputy Minister of Culture, the dish's creator. The unusual method in which it is cooked is a closely guarded house secret. Other dishes worth ordering are grilled shrimps (*zhulou xia*, 28 yuan), braised pork leg (*honghua dazhutui*, 48 yuan),

The secret of Ghost Street, which was somewhat unknown among capital diners several years ago, was spilled long way before it fell under the bulldozer. Food connoisseurs now looking to head off the normal eating radar should hop in a taxi and head to Pufang Lu, also known as Fangzhuang Cuisine street.

So far, the street is mostly frequented by residents of the Fangzhuang housing area, the first of its kind in Beijing. The massive residential and commercial area was built in the early 1990s and attracted many of the country's first generation of wealthy entrepreneurs since Liberation. As the neighborhood has grown, so have its restaurants, to the point that the kilometer-long cuisine street

now stands as a true gastronomical highlight of the capital.

Pufang Lu is home to famous restaurants, like Jindingxuan, Jinshancheng, Shunfeng and Daqingyuan, as well as smaller restaurants that offer a wide range of types of Chinese cuisine in excellent atmospheres with reasonable prices. The area's development has also drawn Pizza Hut and KFC to join the competition, both setting up restaurants at the far west end of the street.

The restaurants around Fangzhuang are not entirely perfect alternatives to the eateries at Ghost Street, as few are open later than 12pm, but their fare is generally far superior, making it more than worth the trek.

Block 3, Fangcheng Yuan **Tel:** 6764 4679

Average cost: 30 yuan per person

Mei'Ali Barbecue Restaurant

In Korean, this restaurant's name means "echoes in the mountain valley," but there are no local echoes of this Korean eatery except the recently opened Sorabol Korean restaurant on the fifth floor of nearby Guiyou Store.

A quick look at the Chinese and Korean menu reveals the restaurant's basic nature: low priced, authentic Korean barbecue. Fish, beef and chicken are among the marinated offerings up for roasting over a charcoal fire, which customers can choose to do themselves or leave to the expert touch of the waitstaff.

Prices are in the middle range, with roast fish (*kaoyu*) going for 65 yuan, roast beefsteak (*kao niupai*) for 50 yuan, roast beef tenderloin (*kao niuliji*) for 60 yuan and tripe hotpot (*niudu huoguo*) for 60 yuan.

Open: 10am - 11pm **Add:** No.15, Block 3, Fangcheng Yuan **Tel:** 6760 9626 **Average cost:** 20 yuan 60

yuan per person

Douyichu Restaurant

This recent migrant, having moved to Fangzhuang from Qianmen less than a year ago, is actually one of the oldest restaurants in the capital. Inside, it has inscriptions from the great Qianlong Emperor and literary giant Guo Moruo, both of whom wrote the restaurant's name in celebration of its excellent Beijing-style food.

History comes at a price, though, and some of Douyichu's dishes are of higher aim and price than nearby restaurants, although there can be no doubts about their quality. Abalone fin in soy sauce with mixed treasures (*sansi ba baochi*) goes for 128 yuan and braised whole abalone in supreme oyster sauce (*haohuang yuanzhi bao*) fetches 198 yuan, while quick fried pork meat (*guoyou rou*) is a mere 20 yuan.

Open: 10am - 10pm **Add:** No.15, Fangcheng Yuan **Tel:** 6760 6235 **Average cost:** 40 yuan per person

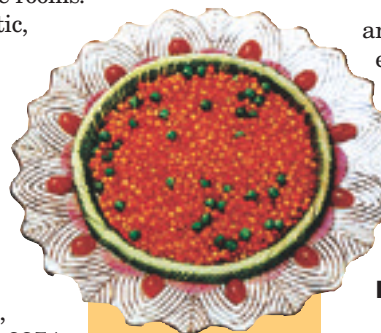
Der Landgraf Restaurant & Brauhaus

Among the rare Western restaurants in the area, Der Landgraf is definitely the only specialist in German beer and food.

German food is known for being hearty and richly flavored, and Der Landgraf does not disappoint. It's extensive menu, written in Chinese, English and German, lists German classics as well as varied daily specialties, such as pan-fried duck liver served

with salad (40 yuan), veal escalope Vienna-style served with roast potatoes (76 yuan) and pork knuckles grilled served with mashed potatoes (86 yuan). Wash it down authentically with a Bitburger beer (1.5L, 88 yuan).

Open: 11am - 12pm **Add:** No.2A, Pufang Lu, Fangzhuang **Tel:** 6768 2664 **Average cost:** 80 yuan per person

Chum salmon eggs braised with lotus seeds (*furong maha yuzi*)

and Chinese toon steamed with fish eggs (*xiangchun yuzi*, 38 yuan).

Open: 10:30am - 10:30pm **Add:** No.19, Block 3, Fangcheng Yuan **Tel:** 6763 8152 **Average cost:** 20 yuan per person

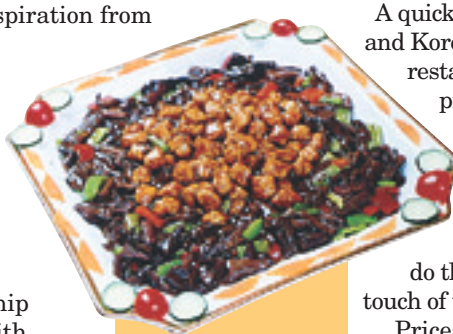
Xiangtanhong Maojiacai Restaurant

This restaurant drew its name, and its culinary inspiration from Chairman Mao's hometown of Xiangtan in

Hunan Province. The house specialty is dishes known to have been favorites of the Chairman, such as pork braised in soy sauce (*hongshao rou*, 25 yuan), dried turnip quick-fried with cured meat (*luobogan larou*, 25 yuan) and pickled fresh beans quick-fried with diced meat (*suandoujiao roumo*, 15 yuan).

The walls are covered in photos of the Great Helmsman, lending it a feeling of the past and a flavor of Hunan.

Open: 10:30am - 11pm **Add:** No.19,

Mushroom fried with shredded pork meat in soy sauce (*chao songmojiang*)Fried shrimps covered with mixture of egg, oil and flour (*taizu xia*)

Stewed shark fin with ginseng and deerhorn



Steamed bun (bobo) Photos Provided by Daqingyuan Restaurant

The 5th Beijing Music Festival

Stradivarius Concert

Performance will include works by Ravel, Sarasate, De Falla, Saint-Saens, Rave and Smetana. Pieces to be performed by Tokyo String Quartet.

Piano: Eri Hayashi
Violin: Akiko Suwanai, Baiba Skride, Viviane Hagner, Elizabeth Batiashevili

Where: Poly Theatre **When:** October 25, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 280, 480, 600 yuan

Leon Fleisher and Joseph Silverstein with China Philharmonic Orchestra

Performance will include works by Debussy, Ravel, Mozart, and Brahms. Pieces to be performed by China Philharmonic Orchestra.

Piano: Leon Fleisher
Violin: Joseph Silverstein
Conductor: Leon Fleisher, Joseph Silverstein

Where: Poly Theatre **When:** October 26, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 280, 480, 600 yuan



Kathleen Battle

World renowned soprano Kathleen Battle recital

Performance will include works by Handel, Mendelssohn, Strauss, Bellini, Guridi, Guastavino, Villa-Lobos and traditional songs such as "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands".

Where: Poly Theatre **When:** October 27, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 680, 800 yuan

Daniel Taylor and Wenge Hu

Pieces to be performed include "My Mind to Me a Kingdom is Lachrimae", "My Flowing Tears," "Overture to Rinaldo" and "Peking Opera Highlights."

Tenors: Daniel Taylor, Hu Wenge
Harpsichord: Melissande McNabney



Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall **When:** October 29, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 60, 120, 180, 280, 380 yuan



A Masterpiece of Modern Opera-Alban Berg's Lulu

Asia Premier by the company of the Helikon Opera House, Moscow

Where: Century Theatre **When:** October 29—30, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 120, 180, 280, 480, 680 yuan
Shine-David Helfgott Piano Recital

Performance will include works by Rachmaninov, Mendelssohn, Liszt and Beethoven.

Piano: David Helfgott

Where: Poly Theatre **When:** October 30, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 180, 280, 380 yuan



Chaozhou Folk Music Concert

Performed by the Teachers' Orchestra of Chinese Music Academy, it includes Chaozhou String Music, Chaoyang Bamboo Flute & Gong and Drum and Chaozhou String Music.

Conductor: Liu Dehai
Where: Poly Theatre **When:** October 31, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 30, 60, 120, 180, 280 yuan

More information or tickets for all the above call 6406 8888, or 6406 9999.

Dining out

Henry J Beans' Bar & Restaurant

HJB is the place to be this Halloween, as we leave you to feud for your survival against Hank and his masked team. Procrastinate no more and take up the challenge on October 31. Live music by Private Eye, Moet & Chandon and fantastic prizes for best costumes. Killer shots for only 18 a pop at the bar, and the special Killer Feast for 298 yuan net per person including three course set dinner with a glass of champagne or cocktail.

Where: China World Hotel **When:** October 31, 7:00 pm **Tel:** 6505 2266 ext 36
State Guest Hotels Presidential Plaza Beijing

As part of the Garden Cafe's lunch and dinner buffet, we are offering a selection of Malaysian dishes, including Sup Daging Lembu Beef Soup, Ayam Percik Spicy Barbecued Chicken, Nasi Lemak and Mee Goreng. Join us for a touch of Malaysian cuisine in addition to our sumptuous international daily buffet.

Where: State Guest Hotels Presidential Plaza Beijing, 9 Fuchengmenwai Lu, Xicheng **When:** till October 31 **Tel:** 6800 5588 ext 8690 **Website:** www.stateguesthotel.com

Chocolate Extravaganza

Come to our dinner buffet and enjoy a feast of cookies, mousse, cakes, brownies and fudge to celebrate chocolate!

Where: Pinocchio Italian restaurant, Lido Hotel, Jichang Lu, Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 5:30 pm—9:30 pm from Monday to Friday **Admission:** 48 yuan for kids and 68 yuan for adults **Tel:** 6437 6688 ext 3812

Music

The Second China International Competition for Singers

The competition includes preliminaries, semi-final and finals.

In the preliminaries, one aria from Passions, Oratorios, Cantatas, Masses and Operas chosen from 17th and 18th century composers. In the semi-final, there are two art songs, two opera arias and one Chinese art song, sung in Chinese language, which can be transposed into other keys. In the finals, two opera arias from the 19th or 20th century repertoire by free choice.

Where: 10 Beidajie, Chaoyang **When:** October 25—November 5 **Tel:** 6555 1778, 6555 1779 **Email:** Chinacomp@ccnt.com

Yaksa

Yaksa's second CD is in the works and rumors say it will be "heavier" than their first. Expect a little bit more electronics, and a fresh feel to the music.

Where: Get Lucky Bar, Taiyang Gong, East of University of International Business and Economics, near Taiyang Market **When:** October 26 **Tel:** 6343 4488 ext 8507

Parties

Kids' Halloween Party

Get junior rocking with games, a costume contest, prizes and buffet at Hard Rock Café Beijing. The first 100 kids will receive a door prize.

Where: Hard Rock Café, Landmark Towers, 8 Dong Sanhuanbei Lu, Chaoyang **When:** October 27, 11:30 am—3pm **Admission:** 80, 100 yuan **Tel:** 6590 6688 ext 2571



Gallery

Karl Lagerfeld will host a night of fashion, funky music and high society lifestyle, basically a decadent soirée. One point of this evening is to celebrate Karl Lagerfeld's sponsorship of violinist Xue Hui. EMI artist Xue Hui is a world-renowned violin virtuoso who has played with just about every major orchestra in the world and won every major international prize on offer. The sounds will be supplied by London's DJ Rebekah Teasdale, with help from San Francisco's DJ Suiki and China's very own DJ Neebing. Sure to be a night to remember in Beijing.

Where: MIX bar, inside North Gate of Worker's Stadium **When:** October 25, 8pm **Admission:** 300 yuan **Tel:** 6530 2061 **Email:** futuremix@21cn.com

Movies

Winners

In a southern Chinese city, a brother and his younger sister try to find a way to fit into "normal" society. The brother walks with the aid of crutches, one of his legs being useless. His younger sister is a "little person," about one meter tall. The two of them live together in poverty and isolation from their neighbors and colleagues.

Where: Dong Chuang Cinema, 3 Xinzhongjie, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng **When:** October 31, 8:30 pm **Tel:** 6416 9253



Pretending to Have No Feelings (Jiazhuang Mei Ganjue)

The divorce of her parents changes A Xia's life, and she and her mother move to her grandmother's home. Going through a frustrating second marriage, mother and daughter grow up together. The film reflects how young people today view and face the changes in modern society. Starring Lu Liping, Zhou Wenqian. In Mandarin.

Where: At cinemas around town **When:** till October 31

Clerks

Pupi Avati's 1984 classic examines people that dwell in the corridors and offices of a major bank. Depicting a young man arriving in Bologna from a small town, the film focuses on a constricted microcosm in which frustration, courting, dreams and hopes wear on, and mysterious hierarchies are set up. In Italian with English subtitles.

Where: Cultural Office of Italian Embassy **When:** October 31, 7 pm **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6532 2187

Perfect Woman (Jing Gai)

A love story directed by Chen Daming. Two men love a girl who works in a dance hall and use all sorts of means to win her heart. The film is filled with humor and tragedy. Starring Nin Jing, Zhao Baoguo. In Mandarin.

Where: 6/F Multipurpose Hall, Wangfujing Book Building **When:** October 26, 2pm **Email:** service@FanHall.com **Tel:** 6398 5491 6396 1685

Sports



Beijing Terry Fox Run

Canadian Terry Fox lost his leg to cancer. To raise money for fellow cancer patients, he ran across Canada on an artificial leg. To follow in his footsteps, volunteers started organizing runs in his name. The Terry Fox Run 2002 in Beijing will begin at 10:00 am and will end in the main parking lot of the Cancer Research Institute, a distance of approximately eight kilometers. Everyone is invited to participate. Participants can run, walk, ride bikes, use wheelchairs or stake on rollerblades.

Where: the north gate of the Worker's Stadium **When:** October 26, 10 am **Tel:** 6456 5588 ext 3817 **Email:** Richard.liu@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Black Tie Golf Tournament

The 16th Black Tie Golf Tournament hits Beijing. For the eighth year running, this tournament will attract people seeking a great day of golf with a touch of class. Enjoy a light breakfast and lunch on the green followed by a presentation ceremony and dinner in the evening.

Where: Sino-Swiss Hotel, Xiao Tianzhu Village, Shunyi **When:** October 26 **Admission:** 1,111 yuan **Tel:** 6456 5588 ext 1428

Miyun Countryside

Check out some Great Wall towers and valley views. Start at 8:30 am, return 5 pm.

Where: the Lido outside Starbucks or Capital Paradise main gate **When:** October 27 **Admission:** adults 150 yuan, children 100 yuan **Tel:** 13701003694 **Email:** bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk

Beijing Friendship Hospital Medical Talks

Qing Xiaoxin discusses the prevention and cure of hypertension.

Where: Basement Meeting Hall, Bldg. 1 Beijing Friendship Hospital **When:** October 31, 2—3:30 pm **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6301 4411 ext 3482

Team Tai Tai back on the ice

The female ice hockey team started practicing on September 17th with pre-season a coaching session and drill for new players. Any woman who can skate is free to join the team and they can assist you on where to purchase equipment in Beijing.

Where: China World Ice Rink **When:** October 26, 9—10 pm **Admission:** 700 yuan for pre-season session, 100 yuan for a single practice **Tel:** 13701267064

Activities

Tenbridge Consulting Charity Golf Day

Air your knickerbockers and prep your driver. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Wolong Primary School (UNESCO).

Where: Beijing Country Club, Shunyi **When:** October 25 **Tel:** 8580 1755 ext 221

Email: webb@tenbridge.com

Community Blood Drive

Twenty minutes of bloodletting for a good cause. All donations are pre-screened according to strict international safety standards before being stored at BJUS on-site blood bank.

Where: Beijing United Family Hospital **When:** October 26, 10 am—1 pm **Tel:** 6433 3960 ext 350 **Email:** liaison@bjunited.com.cn

International Newcomers' Network

This month the group is sharing tips on hot travel destinations in Asia, with coffee and pastries.

Where: 3/F Capital Mansions Athletic Center **When:** October 28, 10 am—noon **Admission:** 30 yuan **Email:** innchn@bjgfoot.com



Get Oriented

Grab a stack of business cards and get to Joe's Original 1 Bar and Grill to network it, baby. The last Thursday of every month is devoted to the oriented Happy Hour, your chance to work the crowd. Complementary appetizers and snacks will be available, and free drinks go to the first 30 people to show up! Halloween-themed masks and jewelry will be available for purchase.

Where: Joe's Original 1 Bar and Grill, 2/F, 2A Gong Ti Bei Lu, Chaoyang **When:** October 31, 7—9 pm **Tel:** 6539 3586 **Website:** www.oriented.com

YPHH Happy Hour

The YPHH Happy Hour on October 30 will be hosted by Huxley's the 2nd! Arrail Dental will give the first 300 people through the door a free beer! Huxley's offers beer and mixed drinks, special shooters, delicious hot dogs and other food at extremely low prices! Lucky draw prizes by Magellan International Movers, Evolution Fitness, Huxley's and Arrail Dental.

Where: Workers stadium South gate (next to Fun Dazzle) **When:** October 30, 6:30 pm **Tel:** 6593 1078 **Website:** www.yphh.com

Welcome to Beijing Health Tips

Health orientation for all newbies to Beijing. Physicians and staff will be available to answer questions about immunizations, child safety, and emergency situations.

Where: Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics **When:** October 30, 10 am—12 noon **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6433 3960 ext 394/350 **Email:** liaison@bjunited.com.cn

Performance



Large-scale musical "Shangri-la"

The story comes from a Tibetan folktale. The scene is the Qinghai—Tibet Plateau, brought to life with Tibetan songs.

Where: China Children's Art Theatre **When:** October 25—November 2 **Admission:** 80, 120, 180, 280, 380 yuan **Tel:** 65222914

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2522

By Guo Yuandan

Exhibitions



The Web of life

Multimedia Mania

A far-reaching and exciting regional new media art exhibition. Now in its fifth year, Multimedia Art Asia Pacific (MAAP) has established itself as the region's pre-eminent new media arts festival, surveying and celebrating the region's finest multimedia works. The bulk of the exhibition of interactive media art, net art, video and installation is housed in the museum, while audio and video screenings will be held at the Loft, the Central Academy of Fine Arts and online plus a site-specific installation in a Beijing storefront.

Where: 1/F The China Millennium Monument Art Museum **When:** till November 3, 8:30 am—5:30 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6851 3322, 6857 3284 **Website:** www.maap.org.au

Buddha Beauty

One hundred Buddhas from Qingzhou, Shandong province, home of the Long Xing Temple and a wealth of Buddha statues dating back 1,500 years. The statues on display feature a variety of designs and the earliest application of color to Buddha figures.

Where: 1/F, The China Millennium Monument Art Museum **When:** October 25—February 8, 8:30—5:30 **Admission:** 25 yuan **Tel:** 6851 3322

That's Beijing Starving Artist Exhibition

This one-day exhibition is part *that's Beijing* one-year birthday bash, part Starving Artist showcase. On display

are works by 12 young hopefuls, a space devoted to discovering future art stars. A great combination of works of distinction, the unrivalled setting of the Red Gate, live jazz, fine wine and beautiful people.

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwenmen **When:** October 26, 3—6 pm **Tel:** 6525 1005 **Website:** www.redgategallery.com

Inner Mongolia Oil Painting Exhibition

A collection of works from top artists from Inner Mongolia.

Where: Denian Painting and Calligraphy house **When:** October 26—November 1 **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 13501208848 **Email:** danmail@sohu.com

French Winemaker Dinner

Montrose's Tour de France continues this month at Beijing's Brasserie Flo Restaurant. Tap into the knowledge of the export manager and French Sommelier of Compagnie Medocaine, producer of Petit Chateaux.

Where: Brasserie Flo Restaurant, 16 Dong Sanhuan Beilu, Rainbow Plaza **When:** October 28, 7 pm **Admission:** 388 yuan per person **Tel:** 8591 6491 **Website:** www.montrosecina.com

Lecture

Walk and Talk Ming & Qing Furniture

A series of lectures and outings about Ming & Qing furniture and collection.

Lecturer: Hu Desheng, Palace Museum researcher, ancient furniture specialist

When: October 26, 2:00—4:30 pm

Where: Luo Yang Room, 2/F, Kempinski Hotel

Admission: 200 yuan, including coffee break and English translation
Everything About Porcelain Appraisal

Porcelain artworks from 1911 to today, focusing on contemporary porcelain that shows potential of increasing in value.

Lecturer: Ye Peilan, Palace Museum researcher.

Where: Nei's Porcelain Art Museum **When:** October 26, 1:30 pm departure, return 5:00 pm **Admission:** 200 yuan, including transportation and English translation.

A Trip to Money Alley

By Jerry Ho / Wang Yong

The Money Alley (Qian Shi hutong) is a very narrow blind alley in Beijing. Its length is 55 meters and the average width is 0.7 meters. The narrowest part is only 40 centimeters wide so people have to sidle past each other. This confined little hutong used to be the official financial market of Beijing in the Qing Dynasty.

In late Qing Dynasty and early years of the Republic of China, private banks in this small alley virtually determined the exchange rate between silver and copper cash using the silver money standard of that time. The daily exchange rate was announced on a big board by the banks, and smaller banks from all over Beijing would send people to read the board every morning. The street also served as a mint.

Most people ask the same question: why is it a dead end alley and why is it built to be so narrow? The reason was to prevent robbery. The street was narrow and guarded at its one entrance to make it harder for robbers to escape. Unfortunately, in the Ren Zi Mutiny of 1912, the street was looted by soldiers and bandits.

The Money Alley is the oldest and best-preserved financial exchange in China. Everything was designed to be as compact as possible, while covering all the necessary financial functions.

To visit the alley, head north from the Qian Men subway as far as Quanjude Peking Duck Restaurant. Cross the road into Da Zha Lan Street until a big board marked Zhu Bao Shi Street can be seen. Enter the street and look to the left (west) to find the Money Alley. It is indeed very small but still has its own nameplate.



Courtyard Quest

By Jerry Ho

Courtyards are perhaps the most famous and celebrated form of residential architecture in China. The most famous courtyards in North China are in Shanxi Province, in particular the Qiao Jia courtyard which Zhang Yimou used in his acclaimed film *Raise the Red Lantern*. The Wang Jia Courtyard is even bigger and more magnificent and Kong Jia courtyard has its own unique characteristics.

But it isn't necessary to voyage all the way to Shanxi for a look at courtyard culture. Shi Jia Courtyard in Tianjin is actually the biggest surviving courtyard in China.

In 1994, Zhang Yimou returned to a courtyard set for *Huo Zhe* (To Live). The film may have lost out to Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* for the Cannes Film Festival's main prize, the Palme d'Or, but it was still awarded the Grand Prix de Jury, the first Chinese film to pick up this award. Many scenes were shot in the Shi Jia Courtyard.

The courtyard is located in the Town of Yang Liu Qing near Tianjin city. Yang Liu Qing is famous for the making and printing of Chinese folk-style calendars. The Shi Jia Courtyard now hosts the Yang Liu Qing Museum of Tianjin.

The Shi family

The Shi family was one of the eight most famous and powerful families in Tianjin in the late Qing Dynasty. The Shi family first became rich through trading grain and cotton, using the canal transportation that was popular at that time. They made enough money to buy land and build their own houses. Then they opened shops, factories and private banks to multiply their wealth. The family lived in Yang Liu Qing for over 200 years. During the reign of emperor Jia Qing, the Shi family owned thousands of hectares of land and 500 houses.

Architecture

The Shi Jia Courtyard was first built in 1875. With a total area of about 6,080 square meters, the whole complex includes 12 smaller yards and 278 rooms.

Entering the courtyard from Gu Yi Street you can see a long paved path leading to the far end of the yard. The path is the axis of the whole yard, with five smaller yards on either side. Every yard has its own gate to the path so that they stand alone but are well connected by the long path. This is the typical structure of courtyards owned by rich families in the Qing Dynasty.

The yards were all built for different purposes. Living rooms for different members of the family, reception halls of various sizes for different guests, a number of studies and various other rooms are all organized along the long path. There is even a theatre in one of the yards. This is the biggest theatre of any civilian residence in North China and used to host some famous Peking Opera performers.



The western style gate of Shi Jia courtyard is actually a gate connecting two yards. It was fashionable among rich families in the late Qing Dynasty.

Museum

The Yang Liu Qing Museum in the Shi Jia Courtyard has a good collection of traditional craftwork. Brick sculpture is a form of decoration on many ancient Chinese buildings. In the museum more than 130 pieces of brick sculpture are on display. Delicate human figures, flowers and pagodas are carved on the bricks. A former guest room has been restored to its original appearance and has become another section of the museum for the display of some precious art collections of the Shi family. A folding wooden screen is considered to be extremely valuable.

Yang Liu Qing wood-carved calendars are an important local art form and are famous all around China. Having originated in late Ming Dynasty, the calendars became widely popular during the reigns of Yong Zheng and Qian Long during the Qing Dynasty. The calendars vary greatly with themes like historical stories, fairy tales, landscapes or flowers. The making of a Yang Liu Qing calendar is a complicated process involving

delicate painting on each piece after a process of wood-carving and printing. Most of the families in Yang Liu Qing are capable of producing this beautiful artwork.

Tips:

Transportation:

T533 Intercity express train, Beijing 9:27am, arrival at Tianjin Station, fare 35 yuan;

K45 Air-conditioned train, Beijing 9:03am, arrival at Tianjin West Station, fare 24 yuan;

Get to Shi Jia Courtyard from the West Station by direct bus No. 153. The 60 minute ride costs 2 yuan.

Admission fee to the courtyard:

10 yuan

Nearby sightseeing:

When the tour in the Shi Jia Courtyard is finished, tourists still have a few other places to visit. During the great Ping Jin (Beijing and Tianjin) campaign in the civil war more than 50 years ago, the Tianjin front command of the PLA was positioned in Yang Liu Qing. Now the site of the command is on display to the public. Admission fee: 1 yuan.

You can also visit Xiao Nan He in the Xi Qing District to see the residence of Huo Yuan Jia and his tomb. Huo was a famous warrior and master of Chinese Kungfu.



Chuantangmen, a gate which leads on to the courtyard's shrine.